

illiberal actors who exploit popular grievances for political advantage.

Whether grand corruption perpetrated by powerful elites, or administrative corruption carried out by lower-level officials interacting directly with the public, corrupt acts harm the public interest, hamper countries' development, and diminish state capacity. Corruption has been shown to significantly curtail the ability of states to respond effectively to public health crises and to address climate change, migration, and inequities of all forms, while contributing to state fragility. Countries with high levels of corruption are more likely to have populations that suffer from human rights abuses, and are less likely to address those abuses. And states with endemic corruption are more vulnerable to terrorist networks, transnational organized and gang-related criminals, and human traffickers.

Corruption's increasingly globalized nature—fueled in part by transnational illicit finance and criminal networks, as well as exploitation of the licit financial system—imposes steep costs on ordinary citizens and good governance alike. In particular, transnational corruption driven by political and economic elites with the aid of complicit financial and legal service providers undermines lower income countries' ability to advance the welfare of their citizens and perpetuates aid dependency. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's Economic Development in Africa Report 2020, for example, every year an estimated \$88.6 billion—equivalent to 3.7 percent of Africa's GDP—leaves the continent in the form of illicit capital flight.

Corrupt actors exploit deficiencies in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) systems and processes—as well as in other critical transparency, reporting, business, real estate, and tax regimes—to use public contracting, concessions, and procurement processes for personal enrichment. Corrupt elites and non-state armed groups enrich themselves through illicit proceeds and trade of high-value commodities, including gold, wildlife, timber, petroleum, and other natural resources. Across an ever-more connected and digital world, corrupt actors exploit oversight and regulatory weaknesses in jurisdictions around the world to divert and hide the proceeds of their acts. And by leaving their financial systems vulnerable to illicit assets—through anonymous shell companies, opaque transactions, and under-regulated professional service providers—rule-of-law-based societies continue to provide entry points for corrupt actors to launder their funds and their reputations. Such activity negatively impacts average citizens in the United States, tilting the economic playing field against working Americans, enabling criminals to flourish and foreign adversaries to subversively peddle their influence, perpetuating growth-dampening inequality, and contributing to pricing out families from home ownership through real estate purchases.

In parallel, authoritarian regimes and their proxies have been shown to engage in bribery and other corrupt acts as a means to advance their strategic goals, while exploiting the international financial system to off-shore illicit gains, and influence elections and policies in democratic states. Corruption in the form of state-directed cross-border investments from authoritarian states, for example, has had a corrosive effect on institutions in developing countries. Such practices harm the competitive landscape of financial markets, and often have long-term corrosive impacts on governance and human rights standards. The U.S. Government will continue to study the weaponization of corrup-

tion to understand its use and impacts on the United States, other democracies, and countries around the world, as well as how to thwart and build resilience against this evolving threat.

While the U.S. Government has long recognized countering corruption as an important foreign policy goal, a growing understanding of corruption's strategic impact and the increasing interconnectedness of the global economy underscores the need for a new approach. For the U.S. Government to effectively counter contemporary corruption, we must recognize the transnational dimensions of the challenge, and respond in a manner that is both systemic and tailored to local conditions. Doing so will require addressing vulnerabilities in the U.S. and international financial systems; bolstering international best practices, regulations, and enforcement efforts; supporting the role of non-governmental actors; building political will and recognizing when it is absent; and consistently pursuing accountability through a combination of diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance, and enforcement actions.

The United States will continue to evaluate and implement measures as needed to further safeguard our financial system, and will work with like-minded partners and relevant multilateral institutions to do the same. We will make it harder to hide the proceeds of ill-gotten wealth in opaque corporate structures, reduce the ability of individuals involved in corrupt acts to launder funds through anonymous purchases of U.S. real estate, and bolster asset recovery and seizure activities. We will innovate, adapt, partner, and learn, so as to maximize the potential for diplomatic tools, including foreign assistance and targeted sanctions, to stem corruption and to hold corrupt actors accountable, while expanding efforts to ensure that foreign assistance and engagement do not inadvertently contribute to corrupt practices. And we will continue to vigorously enforce the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and other statutory and regulatory regimes via criminal and civil enforcement actions.

Countering corruption is not a simple task. Changing embedded cultures of corruption requires significant political will, and achieving sustained progress can take decades. Positive change requires consistent leadership, public accountability, an empowered and impartial judiciary, and a diverse and independent media. Mindful of these realities, the United States will increase support to state and non-state partners committed to reform, boost the capacity of other governments to tackle corruption, and empower those, including activists, investigative journalists, and law enforcement on the front lines of exposing corrupt acts. We will bolster and promote public-private partnerships to more consistently bring in the private sector as critical actors in the fight against corruption, help level the playing field and improve the international business climate, and lead in international fora as we work to curb the ability of actors to hide ill-gotten wealth behind anonymity. Our closest engagement will be with our most committed allies and partners, including with respect to the influence of strategic corruption deliberately employed by authoritarian governments.

#### *Illustrative Types of Corruption*

Corruption takes on many forms and is used to further various illicit behaviors. Illustrative types of corruption include, but are not limited to:

Grand corruption: when political elites steal large sums of public funds or otherwise abuse power for personal or political advantage.

Administrative corruption: the abuse of entrusted power for private gain—usually by low to mid-level government officials—in interactions with citizens and the private sector, including to skirt official regulations and extort citizens in exchange for their basic services.

Kleptocracy: a government controlled by officials who use political power to appropriate the wealth of their nation. Can include state capture.

State capture: when private entities improperly and corruptly influence a country's decision-making process for their own benefit.

Strategic corruption: when a government weaponizes corrupt practices as a tenet of its foreign policy.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND CUBA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have an NJ.com article by Roland Armando Alum, titled "Opinion: Six Decades After Dictator's Assassination, Dominican Republic Flourishes While Cuba Is Miserable" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### SIX DECADES AFTER DICTATOR'S ASSASSINATION, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FLOURISHES WHILE CUBA IS MISERABLE

(By Roland Armando Alum)

As we commemorate Memorial Day this weekend in the U.S., the Dominican Republic's people mark 60 years since the fall of Rafael Trujillo's dictatorship on May 30, 1961. Considered Latin-America's bloodiest dictator, Trujillo beleaguered Dominicans for 31 years, until a patriots' cabal executed him with the secret assistance of U.S. officials.

Up to the 1959 rise of the Fidel & Raúl Castro brothers in Cuba, Trujillo was unmatched as the despotic model in the Americas, as historian Lauren Derby noted in "The Dictator's Seduction" (2009). It behooves us to draw some chronological contrasts from both countries in the last six decades, developments that—incidentally—have affected our own local demographics.

Indeed, northern New Jersey is home to sizable and dynamic Hispanic communities of Cubans and Dominicans; some of them have attained prominent positions in every walk of life (admittedly, sometimes to the chagrin of self-appointed "guardians-of-the-gate").

Ironically, the geneses of the Dominican and Cuban emigration are opposite. Dominicans began to emigrate en masse after 1961, when freedom of movement became guaranteed; while Cubans fled in disapproval of the Castros' converting the previous Pearl of the Antilles into a bankrupt vassal state of the now defunct Soviet empire. In summer-1980 alone, about 1.5 percent of Cuba's population "voted with their feet" via the unprecedented Mariel Freedom Flotilla, many of whose refugees and their descendants flourished in this great Garden State of ours.

Both countries emerged from traditional militaristic dictatorships around the same time, 1961 for the D.R., and 1959 for Cuba, after Afro-Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista fled the island-nation. Cuba's undeniably remarkable economic prosperity was accomplished despite Batista's relatively brief authoritarianism (1952-58) and the pitfalls of the preceding 1902-1952 republican epoch.

Conversely, conditions were wretched in the D.R. while Trujillo was ruling the country as a private fiefdom. The instability that

followed ended with the U.S. military intervention that eventually fostered a classic tripartite constitutional government, with multiple competing political parties alternating in power. Moreover, the jobs-creating business sector and the labor movement thrive. A year ago, Dominicans elected their eighth post-Trujillo president: successful businessman Luis Abinader (born in 1967), D.R.'s first chief executive born after Trujillo's downfall.

All this sharply contrasts with socialist Cuba, a stagnant, closed society controlled by the Castro family and its hand-picked, mostly military, non-elected cronies still chanting discredited Marxist slogans. True, the Castros counted on initial popular support, but it soon vanished as they hijacked the liberal-inspired anti-Batista political rebellion and turned Cuba into a nightmarish dystopia. While the D.R. steered toward the Open Society ideal, Cuba rushed in the opposite direction with the Castros' tropical version of the failed Soviet-Russian mold.

Dictatorships of all genres customarily attract foreign apologists who, comfortably from abroad, extol alleged relative achievements. Trujillo, who even received an honorary doctorate from a U.S. university, was praised by the same New York Times that characteristically propagates ridiculous excuses for Cuba's oppressors. Likewise, the academic world brims with fake-news reports intent on laundering the Castros' fiascos, while also defaming Cuban-Americans.

As we salute Dominicans upon their celebrating six decades free of despotism, one should commiserate with the Cuban people, still suffering three generations of anachronic totalitarianism; in fact, so far over twice as long as Trujillo's dictatorship lasted.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCIS COLLINS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask the Senate to join me in recognizing the incredible career of Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, as he prepares to step down as Director and return to his research laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute, NHGRI.

NIH is the crown jewel of our Nation's and the world's biomedical infrastructure. The Institute touches all of our lives through its research, which deepens our understanding of the natural world and produces groundbreaking medicines and lifesaving treatments for diseases. Like all Marylanders, I am proud that NIH is headquartered in Bethesda and has several satellite campuses throughout the State.

Dr. Collins' career with NIH has spanned more than three decades. A physician-geneticist, Dr. Collins served as the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1993 to 2008. In this work, he led the Human Genome Project, which in April 2003 completed sequencing the human DNA instruction book. The sequencing of the 3 billion DNA letters that make up the human genetic "instruction book" has been instrumental in uncovering the role that the genome plays in human health and disease and marshaling in a new era of medicine. For this

work, Dr. Collins deservedly received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007.

Dr. Collins is the longest serving, Presidentially appointed NIH Director, having served as the 16th Director of NIH under three U.S. Presidents over more than 12 years. Building on his groundbreaking research in genetics, Dr. Collins has led the Institutes in the effort to develop a greater understanding of medicine and pursue innovations in diagnoses and treatments.

This includes the "All of Us" program, which is a precision medicine initiative that in 2018 began gathering the health data of 1 million participants to develop individualized healthcare that enables us to better treat and prevent disease. Dr. Collins' leadership has similarly led to incredible advancements in understanding neurological conditions. The Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies—BRAIN—Initiative aims to develop revolutionary pictures of the brain to enable researchers to find new ways to treat, cure, and even prevent neurological disorders that affect millions of Americans.

Dr. Collins' tenure has included leading the fight to eradicate cancer under the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. This generational effort aims to improve our ability to prevent cancer or detect it at an earlier stage and develop more effective therapies to treat it. To date, over \$1 billion in Moonshot funding has made incredible progress through support of over 240 research projects across more than 70 cancer initiatives.

Last but certainly not least, Dr. Collins' leadership as NIH Director has witnessed one of the toughest and most challenging tests for the Institutes: the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Dr. Collins' commitment to adhering to the science and steadfast leadership, the NIH has played an historic role in shepherding the development of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and all manner of medical resources toward COVID-19 response efforts. Though the Omicron variant is troubling and the pandemic rages in many parts of the world, we are better prepared to respond and persevere against the COVID-19 pandemic because Dr. Collins played a principal role in leading our national biomedical response efforts.

Dr. Collins is not just a scientist. He is also an avid guitarist and motorcyclist. And his book, "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief", is one of the most intellectually rigorous and compelling efforts to reconcile the worlds of science and faith.

I ask the Senate, my fellow Marylanders, and a grateful Nation to join me in recognizing the career of an extraordinary physician-geneticist, Dr. Francis Collins. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and stewardship of NIH and wish him a happy and well-deserved return to his research laboratory.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS UCCELLINI

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the upcoming retirement on January 1, 2022, of a true public servant and leader, Dr. Louis Uccellini, Director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

Louis is the epitome of a dedicated civil servant, having spent the past 43 years of his career at both NOAA and NASA contributing to and leading the maturation and advancement of our Nation's weather prediction capabilities. Put simply, there is no aspect of today's weather forecast that Dr. Uccellini hasn't advanced during his storied career.

But Louis' contributions span far beyond science. Perhaps most notably, and certainly most visible to the public, are the organizational changes Louis has made to National Weather Service since becoming Director in 2013. The establishment and development of the Weather-Ready Nation program, a paradigm shift that refocused the entire NWS staff and mission, now enables forecasters to use weather information to deliver Impact-based Decision Support Services to emergency managers, which is empowering local officials to help citizens be ready, responsive and resilient to weather events. This is the real purpose of the weather forecast and is allowing the National Weather Service to better perform its mission of saving lives and protecting property.

Louis' mark on the National Weather Service will undoubtedly be felt for many years to come. On behalf of my constituents in Kansas and a grateful nation, I personally thank Dr. Louis Uccellini for his service to our Nation; wish him and his wife, Susan, well in retirement; and as Louis would say, "I'll leave it at that."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LEVILLE STEPHENS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Leville Stephens.

I am proud to celebrate this milestone and honor his service and sacrifice in our Nation's uniform.

Mr. Stephens answered the call to serve. He trained at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, one of 30,000 African-American soldiers who prepared for battle at this location before deploying overseas. He was assigned to the 93rd Infantry Division and shipped to the Pacific theater.

As a private first class, Mr. Stephens served in a number of dangerous locations during the war, including the Philippines, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. He was on his way to Japan when the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, bringing about the Japanese surrender.

Mr. Stephens described his mindset while in uniform as simply "doing his